

Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, January 5, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. in Room 700 of the McLean County Law and Justice Center, 104 W. Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Vice Chairman Nuckolls, Members Harding, O'Connor, Rackauskas and Owens

Members Absent: Chairman Renner

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Lucretia Wherry, Administrator's Office

Department Heads/
Elected Officials

Present: Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services; Mr. Dave Goldberg, Superintendent, Juvenile Detention Center; Mr. Jim Wahls, Director, ESDA; Mr. Curt Hawk Assistant Director, ESDA; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney; Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk; Mr. Derrick Love, Chief Deputy Sheriff, Sheriff's Department; Mr. Bill Gamblin, Director, ETSB; Ms. Cindy Brand, Jury Coordinator; Mr. Ed Books, Rescue Squad

Members of the
Public Present: Mr. Jack Porter, Alternative to Jail Committee, League of Women Voters

Vice Chairman Nuckolls called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Vice Chairman Nuckolls presented the Minutes of the December 1, 2003 Committee Meeting for approval.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to recommend approval of the December 1, 2003 Justice Committee Minutes. Motion carried.

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services, presented a request for approval of a Physician Service Contract with OSF Healthcare System for the McLean County Juvenile Detention Facility. The proposed contract includes a 2% increase over last year's rate.

Ms. Castleman also presented a request for approval of a Contract for Counseling Services with Cathy Vogel for the McLean County Juvenile Detention Facility. Ms. Vogel has provided counseling services since 1999 leading group and individual counseling sessions. Ms. Vogel also provides crisis intervention when needed. Mr. Owens asked how frequently Ms. Vogel's services are used. Mr. Dave Goldberg, Superintendent,

Juvenile Detention Center, replied that Ms. Vogel spends 2-4 hours each week conducting individual counseling, 2 hours a week conducting group sessions, and crisis intervention as needed.

Motion by Owens/Harding to recommend approval of a Physician Service Contract with OSF Healthcare System and for the McLean County Juvenile Detention Facility and of a Contract for Counseling Services with Ms. Cathy Vogel for the McLean County Juvenile Detention Facility. Motion carried.

Ms. Castleman presented the Monthly Statistical Reports for Court Services. Vice Chairman Nuckolls asked if the Committee members had any questions on the Monthly Statistical Reports. Ms. Harding asked what are Dispositional Detentions. Ms. Castleman replied that Dispositional Detentions occur when the Court sentences a juvenile to the Juvenile Detention Center.

Mr. Jim Wahls, Director, ESDA, presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2004 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance. Mr. Owens asked if the grant dollars must be used by the end of 2004. Mr. Wahls replied that the grant dollars would have to be used by June 30, 2004. Mr. Curt Hawk, Assistant Director, ESDA added that the grant had been scheduled to end on December 31, 2003. The granting authority extended the grant period for an additional six months.

Motion by O'Connor/Owens to recommend approval of a request for an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2004 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001. Motion carried.

Ms. Cindy Brand, Jury Coordinator, presented the 2003 Annual Report for the Jury Commission. Ms. Brand stated that 3,520 jurors served for a total of 6,102 days. Less money was spent on juror expenses in 2003 because there were no lengthy murder trials and fewer cases were heard due to the explosion and fire at the Law and Justice Center. Civil jury trials were not scheduled due to lack of facilities while the Law and Justice Center was being repaired. It was expected that the jury trials would increase in the fall once the Law and Justice Center was fully operational. However, jury trials did not pick up until December. In December, there were 14 jury trials. In 2003 19% of the jurors went home without being used. Vice Chairman Nuckolls asked how much is a juror paid. Ms. Brand replied that the jurors receive \$10.00 plus mileage. This is a hardship for jurors who are not paid by their employers. Ms. Rackauskas asked if elected officials can serve on juries. Ms. Brand replied that elected officials are allowed to serve jury duty.

Mr. Bill Gamblin, 911 Administrator, updated the Committee on the shut down of Verizon's digital access emergency system on December 15. A surge of calls shut down five E-911 systems at 2:34 a.m. Luckily, this was a low traffic time. The boxes were used without incident. No emergency calls came in during this time. This is the first time that the system has gone down since 1979. Verizon is planning some upgrades to the system to prevent further problems.

Mr. Ed Books, member of the Rescue Squad, presented the 2003 Year End Report for the McLean County Rescue Squad. The Rescue Squad responded to 44 calls. The Halogens lights have been used and are working well. 1400 hours of training was conducted. Vice Chairman Nuckolls asked if Bloomington's Hazardous Materials team is up and running. Mr. Books replied that Bloomington is training, but no equipment has been purchased. Ms. Rackauskas asked if Bloomington has included money for the purchase of equipment in the Fiscal Year 2004 Budget. Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, replied that Chief Ranney expects to purchase equipment in the first or second quarter of 2004. Bloomington expects to be ready to respond to Hazardous Materials calls beginning July 1, 2004. Mr. Books added that the Town of Normal is no longer training a Hazardous Materials team due to the cost of training.

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner, presented the Monthly Statistical Reports for the Coroner's Office. More cases were handled by November 30, 2003 than in any previous year. The year-end report will be ready for the Committee's information at the February Justice Committee Meeting.

Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender, presented the Monthly Statistical Reports. There has been a decrease in cases. Vice Chairman Nuckolls asked if Justice Committee members had any questions on the Monthly Statistical Reports. No questions were presented.

Ms. Billie Larkin, Children's Advocacy Center, was not present to discuss the Monthly Statistical Reports.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, presented the Monthly Statistical Reports for the State's Attorney's Office. The caseload for felonies increased in December. Mr. Yoder stated that he is planning to meet with the felony screeners to see if there are any specific reasons for the increase. No significant increases are expected in the next year for the felony caseload. The Asset Forfeiture fund is slightly increased over 2002. The Committee should expect to see increases in revenues in 2004 in the Asset Forfeiture Fund.

Sheriff David Owens, McLean County Sheriff, was not present to discuss the Monthly Statistical Reports. Ms. Rackauskas noted that the statistics are not showing the Male/Female division. Mr. Zeunik stated that the January reports should divide the male and female populations. For continuity of reporting, the 2003 reports were not changed.

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The Committee should expect this change at the February County Board Committee.

Mr. Zeunik stated that last month, Mr. Owens asked if funding is found for the Pre-trial Release Electronic Monitoring System, would the Finance Committee support an increase in the full-time equivalent staffing required to support the program. Mr. Zeunik stated that Mr. Sorensen, Chairman of the Finance Committee, replied that as long as funding were available for the long term, the Finance Committee would most likely support the increase in the FTE's.

Vice Chairman Nuckolls presented the bills, as transmitted and recommended by the County Auditor, for review and approval by the Justice Committee.

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Motion by Owens/O'Connor to recommend approval
of the bills, as presented by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time,
Vice Chairman Nuckolls adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucretia Wherry
Recording Secretary
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